



# *The Center of Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance Semimonthly News Bulletin*

November 1, 1997

The Center of Excellence is a partnership between:

*The University of Hawaii*

*United States Pacific Command*

*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*

*The Pacific Regional Medical Command, Tripler AMC*

## **The COE Designated New PAHO/ WHO Collaborating Center**



The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) have jointly designated the Center of Excellence a collaborating center for humanitarian civil-military cooperation. The civil-military designation is unique among collaborative centers.

"This highly prestigious honor validates the fact that the mission of the Center of Excellence, to provide civil-military, integrated training in humanitarian assistance, is necessary and desirable. It further shows that non-governmental and international organizations recognize the need for a working relationship with the U.S. military forces who respond to emergencies of all kinds, throughout the world," said Dr. Frederick "Skip" Burkle, Director of the Center of Excellence.

The designation of this collaborating center is effective for a period of four years, beginning in August 1997.

**Under terms of agreement between the COE and PAHO/WHO, the COE will:**

- 1) Contribute to the coordination between civilian and military for disaster health prevention, mitigation, preparedness and response,**
- 2) Improve the organization and development of disaster electronic information networks, and**
- 3) Develop methodologies for the transfer of disaster response information and skills.**

### **Training Activities Through the COE**

#### **Multiforces Humanitarian Training Conference**

Guam: January 5 - 9, 1998

Singapore: January 12 - 16, 1998

San Antonio: May 26 - 29, 1998



*Chris Seiple accepts the "Eric Noji Award for Teaching Excellence" from COE Director Skip Burkle and Eric Noji in Kauai*

## **Kauai Conference Networks 142 Distinct Organizations**

The Asia Pacific Disaster Conference, held September 8-12, was hailed as a terrific success.

259 attendees, including 74 faculty and 9 facilitators, represented 142 organizations who participated in the five day conference hosted at the Outrigger Hotel on the island of Kauai. The theme of the conference was technological advances in disaster response and humanitarian assistance. In addition, popular panels and workshops on law, policy, mediation and "cyber/information terrorism" were a highlight of the conference.

**The Honorable U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Congressional sponsor of the Center,** provided an explanation of the complementary relationship between the Center of Excellence (COE) and the Pacific Disaster Center (PDC) via a videotaped address. Senator Inouye pronounced, "Both Centers are in demand. Other states want them. Other U.S. commands are demanding the service. Other nations are interested in replicating the model."

(continued, reverse side)

The COE, PDC and Hawaii State Civil Defense took part in planning over 70 distinct presentations.

**ADM Dennis I. Wright, United States Navy, Command Surgeon for United States Pacific Command** observed, "There are great opportunities at this conference to engage your colleagues, to network, to build permanent relationships across professional, organizational, national and international boundaries...the goal of this conference is for us - collectively - to continue to bring our diverse roles and missions, responsibilities and tasks, into greater harmony. Our operations in the field will then realize higher levels of success through a true synergy of unified effort."

The civil-military mix was even, with 45% coming from the U.S. Mainland and 45% from Hawaii. International participants came from Canada, Australia, Switzerland, England, Tonga, Guam, American Samoa, Western Samoa, Palau, Switzerland, Romania and Japan. The conference was the second in a series, beginning in September, 1995 in Honolulu with the Humanitarian Support Operations Conference.

The Asia Pacific Disaster conference coincided with the 5th anniversary of Hurricane Iniki, which struck Kauai on September 11, 1992. Several presentations utilized Iniki in case studies or addressed lessons learned from the disaster. The conference is expected to return to Kauai in 1999.

From the University of Hawaii, **Dr. Skip Burkle, Director, Center of Excellence**, and professor of pediatrics, surgery and public health for the **John A. Burns School of Medicine**, performed facilitator duties for much of the week, breaking from his normally extensive speaking responsibilities. **David C. Bangert, PhD, of the Business School** spoke on "Conflict Management and Negotiations: Implications for Disaster Management". **Rebecca Knuth of the School of Computing and Information Science** gave a unique perspective on the process of information flow and its importance during emergency situations. **Gary Barnes, PhD, Department of Ocean and Earth Sciences Technology**, **Mark Merrifield, PhD**, and **Mike Hamnett of SSRI** offered presentations on Pacific weather phenomenon.

Attending on behalf of the **U.S. Pacific Command**, **Mike Sovereign**, researcher and visiting professor, presented "Joint Vision 2010 Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief Project". **Dr. Thomas Ditzler, Ph.D**, and **Michael A. Kellar, Psy.D.** from the **Tripler Army Medical Center**, spoke on new initiatives in mental health consequences of disasters.

These and other international faculty members of the COE will

be profiled in future issues of this bulletin.

For an agenda and fact sheet on the conference, or to request a copy of Senator Inouye's remarks, please contact April Kanemoto, Administrative Assistant, at 433-7035.

## Center of Excellence Welcomes New PDMIN Personnel

The Center of Excellence welcomes Jan Zastrow as the new director of the Pacific Disaster Management Information Network (PDMIN). Jan comes to the Center from Kapiolani Community College on Oahu, where she was a Health/Electronic Information Resources Librarian. She replaces Paul Piper, who moved recently to begin a new academic position in Seattle. Paul had been with the Center since September, 1995.

Randal L. Uehara joins the Center in the capacity of Educational Multimedia Developer. He left the University of Hawaii's Department of Educational Technology for his new post.

Future editions of this bulletin will feature more on all of the PDMIN team and Jan's future plans for the network.



Lt. Governor Maizie Hirono swears in new AmeriCorps graduates

## Center Receives Recognition by American Red Cross/AmeriCorps

The Center of Excellence was recognized for its participation in graduating the first class of Rapid Response Corps/AmeriCorps volunteers in a ceremony on Friday, October 3 at the headquarters of the Hawaii State Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Lt. Governor Maizie Hirono swore in the new class of fourteen young people after an address on the merits of servant leadership by John Henry Felix, Ph.D, Chair Emeritus of the Hawaii State Chapter. The Center collaborated on the project with the American Red Cross - Hawaii State Chapter under the leadership of Kathryn Bennett, Executive Director. The Rapid Response Corps is the country's foremost young adult disaster service organization.

Editor: Robin Hayden, Public Relations/Funding  
c/o Center of Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance

1 Jarrett White Road, Tripler Army Medical Center (MCPA-DM),  
Tripler AMC, Hawaii 96859-5000

Phone: (808) 433-1433, Fax: (808) 433-1757

Email: haydenr@website.tamc.amedd.army.mil